



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: July 21, 2013

Number: 20

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR July 22, 2013

It was a hot and humid week for Virginia. The average temperature was about 5 to 8 degrees above normal for this time of year. Scattered rain showers were also experienced this week. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.1. Making hay was difficult as farmers worked around isolates thunderstorms. Row crops made good progress with the warm weather; corn silked was one percent ahead of the 5 year average, and soybeans blooming was only six percent behind the 5 year average. Growers expressed some concerns over nitrogen depletion, fungus, blight, and weak roots for the crops. Despite concerns, the majority of crops are in good condition. Other farming activities for the week included topping tobacco, applying herbicides, scouting for pest, and making plans for autumn's cover crops and small grains.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 21, 2013	0	4	63	33
July 14, 2013	0	0	57	43
July 7, 2013	1	1	65	33
June 30, 2013	1	2	68	29
June 23, 2013	0	3	68	29

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 21, 2013	0	4	70	26
July 14, 2013	0	1	63	36
July 7, 2013	0	5	68	27
June 30, 2013	0	2	78	20
June 23, 2013	0	3	75	22

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	1	17	60	22
Livestock	1	1	10	58	30
Hay, Other	2	7	18	49	24
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	12	57	29
Corn	1	2	8	49	40
Soybeans	1	4	15	64	16
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	0	4	18	55	23
Tobacco, Burley	0	3	27	57	13
Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured	0	1	10	82	7
Peanuts	0	9	22	65	4
Cotton	2	2	18	72	6
Apples, All	0	0	4	95	1
Peaches	0	5	23	64	8
Grapes	0	11	6	83	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	81	69	81	80
Corn Dough	20	9	36	32
Winter Wheat Harvested	96	89	100	100
Soybeans Planted	96	92	100	100
Soybeans Emerged	90	84	100	98
Soybeans Blooming	16	7	17	22
Soybeans Setting Pods	2	na	3	3
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	5	na	na	na
Cotton Squaring	84	80	97	86
Cotton Setting Bolls	26	0	36	41
Peanuts Pegged	59	41	78	70
Apples, Summer Harvested	21	2	29	26
Peaches Harvested	36	20	34	33
Potatoes, Summer Harvested	81	72	90	71

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 21, 2013

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to July 20	Mar. 1 to July 20 Norm	Last Week	Since June. 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	92	70	93	68	81	6	2114	1992	0.15	9.67	3.01	30.11	5.43
Norfolk	91	76	94	73	84	5	2361	2181	0.00	6.39	-0.55	23.81	-1.51
Richmond	94	75	96	73	85	7	2366	2176	0.01	9.91	3.52	28.80	4.60
Roanoke	91	72	94	71	81	5	2129	na	1.15	18.49	12.27	39.03	14.79
Wash/Dulles	93	74	96	70	84	8	2086	na	0.00	10.42	4.03	24.41	1.17

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)

Still getting lots of rain. Fire blight and other fungus is making fruit difficult. Evening thunder storms are making hay impossible. Almost too wet to get any field work done

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Another week of isolated thunderstorms brought some rain to virtually all of Rockbridge. Pastures are excellent but making quality dry hay has been very difficult. Row crops appear to be catching-up from late planting and the forecast is favorable for corn and soybean development.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

After a week of very hot and humid weather, the county received widespread thunderstorms Sunday pm. Rainfall ranged from 1/2 inch to over 3 inches in some places. While the corn and soybeans look good from appearance, there is concern the corn does not have a good root system due to the unusual wet season. The early and heavier foliage soybeans blow and mat down quicker during these storms. The ground is saturated in some places. Hay cutting is a problem with not much time between storms to cure before baling. Another concern for corn, tobacco, and soybeans is the fertilizer loss due rains.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

The abundance and frequency of rains in the latter part of the small grain growing season caused 1% of wheat crop unsuitable for harvest. In some instances, some later planted soybeans were killed due to drowning because of many large, late rains.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Last week there were a few days of drying - but hot and humid. Sunday pm thunderstorms brought more rain to saturated land. Hay cutting and curing conditions are

difficult to work in before getting the crop baled. Ground water table is above normal for the first time in a few years.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Hot and humid is the way last week will be remembered. Daily scattered thundershowers, mostly very scattered. Last night's storms varied from a refreshing trace in western Hanover to three inches in eastern Hanover. Wheat harvest is mostly, finally, finished as is the double crop bean planting. Grass is still growing and clover is still evident in spite of the heat; all as a testament to the abundant moisture ,

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

The heat during the week dried topsoil moisture out considerably, but rains from thunderstorms on Saturday and Sunday replenished most soils back to adequate moisture levels. Activities for the week included applying post-emergence herbicides to soybeans and scouting soybeans for pest problems. Some producers were also making plans for small grain and cover crop planting this fall.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

A drier than normal week and hot. Corn looks good but you can see some twisting during midday. Also see some leaves turning dull brown and yellow. I believe signs of heat and some leaf disease due to rain. Hopefully no problem for yields. Corn still needs a few timely showers to stay healthy. Corn earworm survey will begin next week. Most soybeans have emerged and fields look pretty good. Beans really need timely showers now as they begin to set pods and develop. Activities of the week include post applications of herbicides on soybeans. Weeds and grasses have also been thriving during the recent rains. Some full season beans have reached R2 and R3 stage of growth and are ready to receive fungicide applications. Fields are pretty wet, making field work a little more difficult than normal.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

EASTERN CONTINUES

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Vegetables look good. Melons and squash not liking the wind and rain, but seem to be surviving well. Have heard of some damage to growing squash from recent windy conditions. Pumpkins being planted and tomatoes starting to mature. Sweet corn harvest continues. Haymaking has had its issues this year and harvest has been delayed in many areas.

KING WILLIAM (Laura Maxey)

This week we only had one good soaking rain on Sunday. Some corn started curling later in the week. Though it was hot, the humidity was high which resulted in a lot of dew soaked plants in the morning.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County saw hot temps last week, with almost every day in the high 90's to 100 degrees. Rain was spotty throughout the county. Farmers were out cutting hay like crazy, still have some farmers trying last minute chopping of wheat, but several have seen tons of loss. Some corn and soybeans trying to get in the ground. Of the corn and soybeans planted looking good, it really liked last week's hot temps.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

We haven't gotten the rain lately that those around us have, which may be a good thing, but we are still getting rain. Producers are finishing up with the wheat and getting in last minute beans and some grain sorghum. Most of the full season beans look good and the tobacco is doing ok, though the quality may not be there due to the rain. Topping is taking place. The livestock still look good, though the heat this last week was intense. I have heard some good reports of the second hay cutting as rain is not interfering as much as it did with first cutting. plant anything behind the small grains. Several farmers still trying to finish planting corn and soybeans. Hay fields for the most part are looking good, a lot of growth, but farmers having a hard time getting on fields to cut hay and pick up, allowing for a lot of rot.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L Gregg)

Tobacco is showing stress from previous rains and water is still standing in a few fields. There are producers topping steadily and a couple have already harvested a little flue cured tobacco. Cotton is looking pretty good. There has been a lot of combining of wheat this week and planting happening right behind the combines. Hay was also cut, raked, and baled this week. Heat stress of this week is showing on crops as well as livestock. Some sun scald on plants has become evident in places and livestock are taking to shade and even ponds if they have access to cool off.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Wheat growers have made it across the finish line. There are a few scattered fields and small spots with wheat left. Some of those fields will not be planted to soybeans as rainfall came again after a muddy harvest. Growers are busy trying to plant soybeans where they can to utilize seed already purchased. Soybean and cotton herbicide applications were made as field conditions allowed. A second cutting of hay was made this week between showers - a whole 4 day dry stretch!

SOUTHAMPTON

Heat and sunshine have mitigated some early season issues, but there are areas of poor cotton and peanut development. Soybean planting behind wheat has been a struggle.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Extremely hot temperatures arrived this week. Corn continues to look like a bumper crop this year. Soybean plantings are a little delayed due to wet weather. Summer produce is in full swing now.

NORTHERN

FAIRFAX

It has been exceptionally hot and humid.

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Temperatures have been in the High 90's. Crops are looking good so far. Adequate water for livestock and crops. Continue to have Thunderstorms two to three times a week.